



# Congressman Bud Cramer

October 2006 E-Newsletter

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Many in North Alabama participate in the Tricare program, which was designed to provide affordable healthcare to our active duty soldiers, veterans, and their families. There has been a great deal of discussion across North Alabama about the difficulty patients face in finding doctors that accept Tricare. I recently supported language in this year's Defense Authorization Bill that directs the Department of Defense to study and report to Congress on the differences between Tricare and Medicare as a way to improve the Tricare claims process. This will help ensure that a doctor can see a Tricare patient as easily as a Medicare patient. This is a step in the right direction that will help those who have honorably served our country.

*Bud Cramer*

## News From Washington

This month, the Federal Trade Commission approved the United Launch Alliance (ULA), pending a mandatory thirty-day public review and comment period. ULA is a partnership between Boeing and Lockheed Martin to jointly produce both the Boeing Delta rockets and the Lockheed Martin Atlas rockets in Decatur. ULA is expected to bring hundreds of new jobs to the Decatur facility.

Also in Washington, steps for greater border security were taken with the passage of the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which authorizes the construction of a 700-mile fence along the border of the United States and Mexico. Representative Cramer voted for this bill which was approved by the House and Senate in September.

## News From Across The 5<sup>th</sup> District

Representative Cramer joined Governor Bob Riley and officials from International Truck and Engine to announce construction of a new 300,000 square foot engine manufacturing facility near its current location by the Huntsville Airport. The new facility will initially employ an additional 175 workers and will produce International's new "Big Bore" diesel engines.

## Photo Spotlight



Representative Cramer speaking to the employees of Boeing's Delta Rocket plant in Decatur. The Congressman visited the plant to thank employees for their commitment to quality and continued work on Boeing's Delta rockets.

Also this month, Representative Cramer met with Shoals area officials to discuss ongoing infrastructure projects and economic development issues from across Northwest Alabama. The forum, which stressed continued regional cooperation, included four Shoals mayors and representatives from the Colbert and Lauderdale County Commissions.

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<http://cramer.house.gov>